

# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ACTION: Amembassy VIENTIANE ~~XXXX~~ 468

REF: ~~XXXX~~ CA-4273.

In addition to approach on Chinese representation reftel should you/~~XXXX~~ also discuss with Souvanna RLG position on Cuba. You should take strong line that Lao position, when ~~that~~ cold war issues<sup>are</sup> clearly drawn in UNGA, will be subject close world attention; true Lao neutrality can best be demonstrated ~~truthfully~~ by abstaining. We certainly do not feel that special position of Laos lends itself to associating with any self-styled neutral bloc. You may wish suggest Souvanna personally keep close tab on instructions Quinim may be sending to Sisouk. FYI We have information that Sisouk may be deliberately avoiding consultation with his govt in order to give himself wider freedom of action. Lao Embassy also informs us that in absence instructions Sisouk plans abstain on critical issues. END FYI.

END.

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Clearances:

FE - Mr. Sullivan (draft)

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